Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

COLORADO DISCHARGE PERMIT SYSTEM

RATIONALE FOR CERTIFICATION

UNITED FEEDERS, INC.

CAFO PERMIT NUMBER COA932000

CERTIFCATION NUMBER COA932038

I. TYPE OF PERMIT

Colorado Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations General Permit

II. FACILITY INFORMATION

A. Facility Type: Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation – Beef Cattle Operation
Annual Fee: $750 + ($0.09 x 11,000 animal units)
Permitted Capacity: 11,000 Animal Units
Total Annual Fee: $1,740.00

B. Legal Contact:
Dave Kitch
United Feeders, Inc.
P.O. Box 407
Rocky Ford, CO 81067
(719) 252-7336
Cell: (719) 469-0067

C: Facility Contact:
Dave Kitch
United Feeders, Inc.
P.O. Box 407
Rocky Ford, CO 81067
(719) 252-7336
Cell: (719) 469-0067
Email: feedloter@rural-com.com

D. Facility Location:
20552 County Road DD
Rocky Ford, CO 81067
Otero County

III. FACILITY DESCRIPTION

United Feeders, Inc. (the facility) is a beef cattle operation with a confinement capacity of 11,000 head of cattle. The facility utilizes three interconnected (single-stage) retention ponds (Ponds #1, #2 and #3) and three solids separating basins for wastewater containment. Wastewater runoff from the northern portion of the production area flows via sheet flow to Pond #1 in the northeast corner of the production area. Wastewater from Pond #1 passes through a junction box to Ditch #1, a concrete conveyance ditch that gravity flows into Pond #3. Wastewater runoff from the pens in the central production area flows south easterly toward settling basins or east toward Pond #2. A transfer pipe conveys the runoff into the northwest portion of Pond #2. Wastewater runoff from the south side of the production area and the settling basins flows toward the southwest portion of Pond #2 and is directed through a

concrete flume over the Caitlin Canal. Wastewater from the two small pens north of Pond #2 and Pond #3 flows into Pond #3. After Pond #2 fills to capacity wastewater passes through the spillway into a ditch that conveys it to Pond #3. A spillway exists at the northeast corner of Pond #3 for directing overflow. The discharge monitoring point for the facility is at the concrete structure from Ditch #1 at the northeast end of Pond #3 located above the freeboard elevations for Pond #2 and #3. In the event of an overflow, wastewater would flow north and east in an unnamed ditch for approximately one mile to Rocky Ford Ditch which flows four miles to Timpas Creek then north to the Arkansas River.

Manure is stockpiled in the pens until released to third parties. No composting occurs at the facility. The facility owns or controls eight land application sites, totaling 341 acres, for the application of wastewater. Details regarding the location of the land application sites are summarized in Part VI below.

The volume of process wastewater and runoff generated from the facility as a result of the chronic storm is greater than that from the 25-year, 24-hour storm. The applicable impoundment storage volumes and drainage basin runoff volumes are shown below:

Impoundment Name	Pond #1	Pond #2	Pond #3	Total
Volume at 2 feet of freeboard (acre-feet)	2.02	14.38	5.39	21.79
Volume of runoff from drainage basin (acre-feet)	Pen/Open Lot and Pond Surface Areas			21.4

IV. CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

A. The facility is not a "Housed Commercial Swine Feeding Operation" as that term is defined at 25-8-501.1(2)(b), C.R.S., and is not a duck CAFO.

B. The facility is not a CAFO for which a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) has been established for the facility.

C. A discharge from the facility would not be to surface water for which there is an applicable control regulation that limits the quantity or concentration of total phosphorus or total nitrogen in discharges.

D. The facility has not requested alternative CAFO effluent limitations and has not proposed the use of site-specific alternative technologies per section 61.17 (7) of Regulation No. 61.

E. The facility has submitted a complete Application to Be Certified Under a General Permit for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations and Nutrient Management Plan (NMP).

F. The facility's rain gauge is capable of accurately measuring precipitation to a detection limit of 0.1 inch. An acceptable Standard Operating Procedure for measuring precipitation was provided as part of the permit application.

G. All impoundments were designed by a professional engineer and have been designed and constructed in accordance with the standards of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Field Office Technical Guide, Section IV, or equivalent.

H. All impoundments have properly designed and constructed spillways designed to prevent erosion of the structural integrity of the impoundment.

I. Depth markers have been installed in all open surface impoundments and terminal tanks, in accordance with Part IV.B.3., of the general permit.

J. Two feet of freeboard, or other freeboard level approved by the Program, exists in each open surface impoundment and terminal tank, in accordance with 61.17(5)(c)(ix)(E).

K. Clean water is diverted, as appropriate, from production areas, manure stockpiles, and composting areas, in accordance with 61.17(5)(c)(ix)(F).

L. Structures used to divert process wastewater from the production area are sized, in accordance with 61.17(5)(c)(ix)(G).

V. CONFORMANCE WITH CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Based on the information presented in Section IV above, the facility meets the requirements for certification under the permit as required in Attachment A of the permit.

VI. NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

A Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) that satisfies the requirements of Part III of the permit was submitted with the application for permit coverage. The best management practices and procedures detailed in the NMP, as required to satisfy Part III (A)(1) through (9) of the permit, are incorporated into this certification by reference. The terms of the NMP listed in Part III (B)(1) of the permit are also incorporated into this certification by reference. The terms of the NMP are available through public notice for review and comment. The NMP must be kept on-site as long as the operation is certified under the permit.

A summary of location information related to the land application site(s) is provided in the table below:

Land Application Site Name	Spreadable Acreage	County	GPS Location	
			Latitude	Longitude
G-N	61	Otero	38.028622	-103.699865
G-S	61	Otero	38.699865	-103.699908
U-1	30	Otero	38.025242	-103.699907
U-2	43	Otero	38.021455	-103.69875
U-3	37	Otero	38.012354	-103.707461
L-1	46	Otero	38.107973	-103.707161
L-2	28	Otero	38.015437	-103.705702
L-3	35	Otero	38.015708	-103.702312

VII. RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS

Recordkeeping requirements are presented in Part V of the permit.

VIII. MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

A. Monitoring requirements for discharges are presented in Part VI of the permit.

B. Soil sampling requirements are detailed in the facility's Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) in accordance with Part III. A. 7) and Part III B. 4)(a) of the permit. As prescribed in the NMP, the facility is responsible for soil

sampling at depths outlined in the Colorado State University Cooperative Extension Best Management Practices for Manure Utilization-Bulletin 568A. The bulletin identifies the following for sampling depths as appropriate:

- 1 foot or less, to evaluate crop phosphorus, potassium, and other nutrient needs;
- 4 to 6 feet, from the deeper root zone after crop harvest and/or prior to any manure or effluent application to evaluate soil nitrate (NO_3);
- Soil sampling below the active root zone may be needed occasionally to document that nutrients are not leaving the root zone.

IX. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Reporting requirements are presented in Part VII of the permit.

A. Signatory Requirements: Signatory requirements for reports and submittals are presented in Part VII (B) of the permit.

B. Annual Reports: The facility must submit an annual report to the Environmental Agriculture Program by March 31st of each year. The annual report must include the information detailed in Part VII (C) of the permit.

C. Special Notifications: Special notifications are required in the event of a spill, bypass, or other noncompliance. Notification requirements are presented in Part VII (D) of the permit.

X. NMP CHANGES, PERMIT REOPENER, PERMIT RENEWAL, AND FEE INFORMATION

A. Changes to the NMP: For substantial changes to the terms of the NMP listed in Part III (B)(1) of the permit, the NMP and the facility's certification under the permit will be changed as presented in Part III (C) of the permit.

B. Reopener: The permit may be modified, suspended, or revoked in whole or in part during its term for any reason outlined in Part VIII (F) of the permit.

C. Renewal: Requirements for permit renewal are discussed in Part I (H) of the permit.

D. Fee Information: Permit fee requirements are presented in Part VIII (H) of the permit. An annual fee must be paid to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to maintain coverage under the permit.

XI. REFERENCES

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service, *Field Office Technical Guide*, Section IV.

B. *Colorado Water Quality Control Commission, Regulation No. 61, Colorado Discharge Permit System Regulations (5 CCR 1002-61).* Denver: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment as amended December 12, 2011 and effective January 30, 2012.

C. Colorado State University Cooperative Extension *Best Management Practices for Manure Utilization-Bulletin 568A*, September 1999.

Elizabeth M. Sapio
Environmental Agriculture Program
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
February 12, 2013

XII. PUBLIC NOTICE COMMENTS